IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 3, 10, and 19.

Please add claims 27-29.

Please amend claims 1, 4, 9, 11, 15, 17, 18, 20, and 26 as indicated below.

1. (Currently amended) A method <u>for managing inventories, the method</u> comprising:

placing a request order to acquire at least one item from an inventory associated with a first location<u>, wherein the request order is placed from a processor at a second location</u>;

receiving the item <u>at the second location</u>;

providing an indication of receipt of the item <u>in response to receiving the item at the second location</u>; and

reducing the inventory associated with the first location in response to receiving the indication.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein providing an indication of receipt comprises providing an electronic mail message to indicate the receipt of the item.

3. (Canceled)

4.   (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~3~~1, further comprising incrementing an inventory associated with the second location ~~based on~~ <u>in response to</u> receiving the item <u>at the second location</u>.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 4, further comprising scheduling the item to perform a benchmark request.

6.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising determining if the item is designated as rotational equipment.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 6, further comprising tracking the usage time of the item.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein placing the request order comprises placing the request order in response to determining that the request order has been approved.

9.   (Currently amended) An article comprising one or more machine-readable storage media containing instructions that when executed enable a processor <u>at a first center</u> to:

        provide an order to acquire a resource from a source<u> at a second center</u>, wherein the source includes a ~~preselected~~ number of resources;

        provide an indication <u>in response to</u> ~~based on~~ receiving the ~~item~~ <u>resource at the first center</u>; and

        reduce the ~~preselected~~ number of resources by one <u>in response to</u> ~~based on~~ detecting the indication.

10.   (Canceled)

11. (Currently amended) The article of claim ~~10~~9, wherein the instructions when executed enable the processor to increment an inventory associated with the first center in response to ~~based on~~ receiving the item.

12. (Original) The article of claim 9, wherein the instructions when executed enable the processor to schedule the resource to perform a benchmark request.

13. (Original) The article of claim 9, wherein the instructions when executed enable the processor to provide an electronic mail message based on receiving the resource.

14. (Original) The article of claim 9, wherein the instructions when executed enable the processor to determine if the resource is designated for a resale to a customer.

15. (Currently amended) The article of claim 14, wherein the instructions when executed enable the processor to track the usage of the resource. ~~based on determining that the resource is designated for resale.~~

16. (Original) The article of claim 9, wherein the instructions when executed enable the processor to approve the order before providing the order to the source.

17. (Currently amended) An apparatus, comprising:
   means for placing a request order to acquire at a first location at least one item from an inventory associated with a ~~first~~ second location;
   means for recording that ~~receiving~~ the item is received at the first location;
   means for providing an indication of receipt of the item in response to receiving the item; and

means for reducing the inventory associated with the ~~first~~ <u>second</u> location in

response to receiving the indication.

18.   (Currently amended) An apparatus, comprising:

a storage unit comprising an inventory associated with a first location, wherein the

inventory includes at least one item; and

a control unit communicatively coupled to the storage unit, the control unit adapted

to:

provide a request to receive the item from the first location <u>at a second</u>

<u>location</u>;

provide an indication ~~based on~~ <u>in response to</u> receiving the item <u>at the</u>

<u>second location</u>; and

adjust the number of items in the inventory ~~based on~~ <u>in response to</u>

detecting the indication.

19.   (Canceled)

20.   (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1~~9~~<u>8</u>, wherein the storage unit includes

an inventory associated with the second location.

21.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the control unit is adapted to

increment the inventory associated with the second location based on receiving the item at

the second location.

22.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the control unit is adapted to

schedule the resource to perform a benchmark request.

23.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the control unit is adapted to reduce the number of items in the inventory associated with the first location based on detecting the indication.

24.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the control is adapted to provide an electronic mail message based on receiving the item.

25.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the control unit is adapted to approve the order before providing the request.

26.   (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the control unit is further adapted to:

       receive a benchmark request;

       determine one or more resources that are desired to perform the benchmark request;

       display the one or more resources that are available for use during a selected time
             interval; and

       schedule the available resources to perform the benchmark request at a desirable time within the selected time interval.

27.   (New) An information management system comprising:

       a plurality of computing systems interconnected by a data network;

       wherein a first of the computing systems at a first center is coupled to a first source
             including a number of resources;

       wherein a second of the computing systems at a second center is configured to
             provide an order to acquire a resource from the first source;

       wherein the second computing system is further configured to provide an indication
             of receipt of the resource to the first computing system in response to

receiving the item at the second center; and

wherein the first computing system is configured to reduce the number of resources of the first source by one in response to receiving the indication.

28.   (New) The system of claim 27, wherein the second computing system is coupled to a second source including a number of resources, and wherein the second computing system is configured to increase the number of resources of the second source by one in response to receiving the item at the second center.

29.   (New) The system of claim 27, wherein the first computing system is configured to schedule the resource to perform a benchmark request upon receiving the order from the second computing system to acquire the resource.